



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, California 93003



IN REPLY REFER TO:
81440-2011-CPA-0107

April 27, 2011

Doug Bosco, Chair
c/o Trish Chapman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) encourages the California Coastal Conservancy (CCC) to approve the \$4.5 million in funding for the construction phase of the San Clemente Dam (dam) removal project (project). In addition, we encourage the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to approve the \$7 million in funding for the construction phase of the project. The project would re-route an approximately 0.5-mile portion of the Carmel River via San Clemente Creek to create a permanent disposal area for sediments that have accumulated in the dam reservoir. The approximate 0.5-mile re-route through San Clemente Creek would enable passage by federally threatened adult and juvenile steelhead (*Oncorhynchus* spp.); thus, providing up to 25 miles of additional spawning and rearing habitat for the species. The project would also provide benefits to the federally threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) through habitat enhancement and elimination of the reservoir pool, a known breeding location for non-native bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*).

For a species such as the California red-legged frog to disperse beyond the dam (i.e., upstream or downstream), an individual must ascend or descend extremely steep slopes on either river bank adjacent to either dam abutment. Even in the unlikely event that an individual California red-legged frog is able to negotiate this slope, its exposure to predation is greatly increased during this movement. Although dispersal of individual California red-legged frogs in the project area has not been rigorously studied, it is reasonable to conclude that a structure such as the San Clemente Dam poses a substantial barrier to dispersal. Removal of the dam would allow California red-legged frogs to freely disperse upstream and downstream at what is now a likely barrier for the species.

The dam's reservoir pool is a source of bullfrog breeding due to the permanent aquatic breeding conditions that the pool provides. The Service considers the proliferation of bullfrog populations along the central California coast (e.g., Monterey County) to be a substantial threat to the persistence of the California red-legged frog in this area. The project would eliminate the reservoir pool (bullfrog breeding habitat) and return the reach of the Carmel River that would merge with San Clemente Creek to a natural, free-flowing state. Free-flowing reaches of the



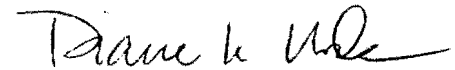
Doug Bosco

2

Carmel River upstream and downstream of the project area meander seasonally, and periodically create off-channel pools and backwater areas. These features support high-quality breeding habitat for the California red-legged frog and the Service believes that returning the project area to a free-flowing state would enable this reach of the Carmel River to eventually function similarly for the subspecies.

The Service encourages the CCC and WCB to approve \$4.5 million and \$7 million, respectively, in funding to support the construction phase of the project. The project would provide several conservation benefits for steelhead and California red-legged frogs. If you have any questions regarding our support of this important restoration project, please contact Chad Mitcham of my staff at (805) 512-6805.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane K. Noda", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Diane K. Noda
Field Supervisor

cc:
John Donnelly, Wildlife Conservation Board



April 29, 2011

Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Support for San Clemente Dam Removal Project Funding

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing on behalf of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (District or MPWMD). This letter is to express support for approval of \$4.5 million of additional funding for the construction phase of the Carmel River Reroute and San Clemente Dam Removal Project by the Coastal Conservancy at its May 19, 2011 meeting. The District also supports approval of \$7 million for the construction phase of the San Clemente Dam Removal Project by the Wildlife Conservation Board at its June 2, 2011 meeting.

As the regional water manager in the Monterey Peninsula area, MPWMD has been involved with the management and proposed removal of San Clemente Dam for a number of years. As a signatory to the San Clemente Dam Removal Project Collaboration Statement, MPWMD supports the project objectives of (1) resolving the public safety risk posed by the dam, (2) providing unimpaired access to 25 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for the Carmel River steelhead population, (3) restoring the river's ecological processes, including sediment transport to the Carmel River Beach, (4) enhancing habitat for the California red-legged frog, and (5) transferring 928 acres in the upper watershed to the US Bureau of Land Management for permanent watershed conservation and compatible public access.

MPWMD supports this unique partnership between local, state, and federal agencies and California American Water and urges your approval of additional funding for the construction phase of the Carmel River Reroute and San Clemente Dam Removal Project. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Brower", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert S. Brower Sr.
Board Chair

cc: John Donnelly, Executive Officer, Wildlife Conservation Board

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monterey peninsula regional park district

60 Garden Court, Suite 325 • Monterey, California 93940-5341

April 28, 2011

California Wildlife Conservation Board
c/o Peter Perrine, Assistant Executive Director
Restoration and Development
1807 13th Street, Suite 103
Sacramento, CA 95811

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer L. Fellguth – Ward 1

jfellguth@sbcglobal.net
Marina, northern Ft. Ord

Ben Post – Ward 2

ben@post-tech.net
Seaside, Sand City

Michael Adamson – Ward 3

mgasba@montereybay.com
Monterey, Del Rey Oaks,
southern Ft. Ord

Kathleen Lee – Ward 4

kleemoco@gmail.com
Pacific Grove, New Monterey,
northern Pebble Beach

John Dalessio – Ward 5

jmaam@gmail.com
Carmel, Carmel Valley, Big
Sur, southern Pebble Beach

General Manager

James M. Sulentic
jsulentic@mprpd.org

RE: San Clemente Dame Removal Project

Dear Mr. Perrine:

Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District is a special district sub-division of the State of California. It was created in 1972 for the express purpose of acquiring and conserving open space in the Greater Monterey Peninsula. The District serves 150,000 residents in seven incorporated cities and two unincorporated communities.

The District owns and manages two open space parklands in the vicinity of the project; the 3700-acre Garland Ranch Regional Park (downstream along the Carmel River) and the 1600-acre San Clemente-Blue Rock Open Space (at the dam and upstream along the Carmel River).

The District supports the Dam Removal Project that will re-route a half mile of the Carmel River into San Clemente Creek to create a permanent disposal area for sediments that have accumulated in the dam's reservoir. This half-mile of San Clemente Creek upstream of San Clemente Dam will be excavated and restored to enable passage by adult and juvenile steelhead, and provide riparian and aquatic habitat for a variety of species. Finally, San Clemente Dam will be removed.

This project will permanently remove the potential safety / failure issues while providing 928-acres of additional public open space that will connect the District's Garland Ranch Regional Park and its San Clemente-Blue Rock Open Space. In addition, the proposed removal will protect and enhance the ecological functioning of a 25-mile reach of the Carmel River that supports the federally threatened South-Central Coast Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and California Red-Legged Frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*). This project has far reaching benefits as well in that sediment transport to the Carmel River Lagoon, an important estuary and steelhead nursery site, will be significantly reduced.

Mr. Peter Perrine
California Wildlife Conservation Board
April 28, 2011
Page 2

The partnership of public agencies at the federal, state, and local levels with the dam owner is impressive and a model of effective inter-governmental cooperation and collaboration. The funding roles of the Wildlife Conservation Board and the Coastal Conservancy are essential in this partnership. The District urges both agencies to approve the necessary funding and continue this important public benefit and trust project.

Sincerely,

James M. Sulentic
General Manager

Cc: Trish Chapman
Board of Directors



National Wildlife Federation

Pacific Region - Seattle Office
6 Nickerson Street, Suite 200 ♦ Seattle, Washington, 98109
(206) 285-8707 ♦ Fax: (206) 285-8698 ♦ www.nwf.org

April 25, 2011

Doug Bosco, Chair,
California Coastal Conservancy
Attention: Trish Chapman
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

and

John Donnelly, Executive Officer,
Wildlife Conservation Board
Attention: Peter Perrine
1807 13th Street, Suite 103
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Mr. Bosco and Mr. Donnelly,

The National Wildlife Federation, on behalf of its 140,000 members in California strongly recommends that the California Coastal Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board approve funds needed for the removal of San Clemente Dam on the Carmel River.

The Carmel River represents one of the best opportunities for river restoration on California's Central Coast. San Clemente Dam is a major barrier to threatened steelhead trout, which have significant natural spawning habitat and natural rearing habitat located above the dam. Essentially all of the steelhead spawning habitat in the river exists above San Clemente Dam which is located 18.5 miles upstream of the mouth.

Removing the San Clemente Dam will help to re-establish a healthy connection between the lower Carmel River and the watershed above the dam and improve habitat for threatened red-legged frogs. It will also expand public recreation by preserving over 900 acres of coastal watershed lands, resulting in over 5400 acres of contiguous regional park land.

Sincerely,

Les Welsh
Pacific Regional Representative,
National Wildlife Federation

Exhibit 6: Project Letters

From: Lorin Letendre [letendre@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 9:51 AM
To: tchapman@scc.ca.gov
Cc: Craig Anthony; Catherine Bowie; Paul Bruno; Monica Hunter; Lorin Letendre; Greg Pepping; Barbara Rainer; Clive R. Sanders; A.I.A. Michael L. Waxer
Subject: Letter of Support for SC Dam Removal Project

Trish--

Thanks for spearheading this effort. Below is my letter of support that you can send on to Dan Bosco and John Connelly. I am in New Canaan CT taking care of three grandkids hence my brevity here! Clive Sanders and other CRWC board members may wish to add to what I have written here.

Best regards, Lorin

April 28, 2011

Memo to: Dan Bosco, Chair, Coastal Conservancy
John Connelly, Executive Officer, Wildlife Conservation Board
From: Lorin Letendre, President, Carmel River Watershed Conservancy
Subject: San Clemente Dam Reroute and Removal Project

Dear Sirs:

The Carmel River Watershed Conservancy was formed originally as a Watershed Council back in 2000, and became a Watershed Conservancy in 2004 when it also conducted a watershed assessment. In 2005 CRWC issued an Action Plan for the entire Carmel River watershed, and then issued a Supplemental Assessment and Action Plan specifically with regard to the San Clemente Dam.

In the original Action Plan and the Supplemental Action Plan (can be accessed on our website carmelriverwatershed.org) we strongly recommended that the SC Dam be removed in order that the river could be restored to its natural ecological condition prior to the construction of the Dam. We evaluated other alternatives, but the one that we ended up advocating is the one that is currently under consideration for funding by your organizations--rerouting the river into the Sam Clemente Creek and then eventually removing the SC Dam. This would restore many miles of spawning and rearing habitat for the threatened special Central Coast Steelhead, and end the downstream damage caused by dams in rivers. It would also allow sediment to be transported downstream to the Carmel River State Beach, where it would build up the barrier beach and protect the lagoon from intrusion

of ocean water. Finally, it would restore rearing habitat for the federally-threatened species of the California red-legged frog.

CRWC deeply appreciates your interest and willingness to consider further funding for this project that our organization and others so highly recommend.

We would be happy to supply copies of our Supplemental Assessment and Action Plan should you wish them for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lorin Letendre

Lorin Letendre

letendre@sbcglobal.net

831-277-0276

Exhibit 6: Project Letters

From: [Jody Q](#)
To: tchapman@scc.ca.gov
Subject: San Clemente Dam Removal Project
Date: Monday, April 18, 2011 11:00:11 PM

Dear Ms Chapman,

I am writing in support of removing the San Clemente Dam. This dam has been filled with silt for many years, and does little more than provide an obstacle to native fish that attempt to spawn upstream. It is an unnatural impediment to the flow of the Carmel River and we would be fortunate indeed to have it demolished, and the river restored to its original condition.

Thank you.

--

Jody Emerson Quintana
Monterey, California.

Exhibit 6: Project Letters

From: Steve Woolpert [sgwoolpert@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 8:06 AM
To: PPerrine@dfg.ca.gov
Cc: tchapman@scc.ca.gov
Subject: San Clemente Dam Project Costs vs. Benefits

To Whom It May Concern:

We have attended a number of Public Information Meetings and have read the numerous Environmental Documents. Throughout, it has been clarified to us that should the San Clemente Dam spill, as a result of a maximum credible earthquake (6.7 Richter) and/or from a Probable Maximum Flood, that the adverse impacts of such a spill would be limited to a barely-noticeable, non-damaging, increase in slow-flow Carmel River water elevation. And, streambed sediment release from the dam would beneficially locate in areas of the “starved” streambed and flood zone where such sediment had naturally occurred.

While we understand that many people simply don’t like man-made structures (such as dams) in our waterways, we don’t believe there is evidence in the Public Record that would support the enormous taxpayers’ and water customers’ costs of the dam removal as described as the Dam Removal Project. There is no apparent significant danger to people, property, or our environment. Moreover, there is no apparent significant improvement to fish and wildlife habitat with the Dam Removal Project.

As the benefits of the project are apparently trivial (except perhaps for those that simply don’t like dams), we would ask that all Public Agencies weighing in on the removal of San Clemente Dam either reverse or withdraw their support. In addition to the reasons stated above, there is no “available money” when the United States is spending more than it takes in, all the while increasing our debt to unprecedented levels. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Steve G. Woolpert
8 Sleepy Hollow
Carmel Valley, CA 93924
sgwoolpert@comcast.net
(831)659-3060H

San Clemente Dam Removal Project

Collaboration Statement

We, the undersigned, recognize:

- California American Water owns the San Clemente Dam ("the dam"), located on the Carmel River in Monterey County approximately 18 miles upstream from the mouth of the river in Monterey Bay.
- The Carmel River and the area surrounding the dam constitute valuable watershed area and habitat for many species of plants and animals.
- California American Water and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Division of the Safety of Dams (DSOD) have determined the dam is inadequate for seismic stability and flood safety. DSOD is requiring California American Water to alleviate the dam safety hazards.
- In December 2007, DWR completed the San Clemente Dam Seismic Safety Project Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("EIR/EIS"), under the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, analyzing alternatives for addressing the safety issues. Alternatives that meet DSOD safety requirements include Dam Strengthening (buttressing) and the Carmel River Reroute, which includes removal of San Clemente Dam. DWR certified the Final EIR on December 31, 2007.
- The California State Coastal Conservancy has recently funded several studies and has determined that the River Reroute and Dam Removal Project is a feasible alternative.
- The California State Coastal Conservancy, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, and multiple non-governmental organizations believe that removing San Clemente Dam will result in multiple public environmental benefits, including improving access to 25 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead trout, restoring the ecological connectivity of the river and riparian corridor, and restoring river functions and sediment transport.
- The South-Central California Coast steelhead trout and the California red-legged frog are listed as threatened species under the Federal Endangered Species Act. The Carmel River has been designated critical habitat for both of these species.
- California American Water has determined that implementation of the Reroute and Dam Removal alternative would cost more than the Dam Strengthening alternative.
- California American Water is obligated to resolve the safety risk posed by the dam at the least cost possible to its ratepayers.
- California American Water is amenable to removal of the dam instead of buttressing it, provided the project will satisfy the safety concerns of DSOD in a timely manner and will not unduly burden California American Water's ratepayers and shareholders.
- The California State Coastal Conservancy, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, and California American Water have been working collaboratively since 2007 along with other federal, state, and local organizations to develop a reasonable and prudent solution for San Clemente Dam that would meet the requirements and constraints of the undersigned.
- California American Water has implemented risk reduction measures for the dam's operation as requested by DSOD while California American Water and resource agencies develop a plan.

In recognition of these facts, we, the undersigned, are committed to:

Working collaboratively over the next year to develop a project plan by June 2010 for the Carmel River Reroute and San Clemente Dam Removal Project such that it can be compared to the project plan for the San Clemente Dam Strengthening Project with regard to costs and liabilities, and to making a good faith effort between now and November 2010 to find funding sources and a governmental or non-profit entity to take over the dam site before or after Dam Removal.

HON. SAM FARR


Representative Sam Farr

Member, House of Representatives,
California 17th District

Date

1-11-'10

HON. ABEL MALDONADO


Senator Abel Maldonado

California 15th District

Date

1-8-10

HON. BILL MONNING


Assemblymember Bill Monning

California 27th District

Date

1-07-2010

HON. DAVE POTTER


Supervisor Dave Potter

Monterey County Board of Supervisors

Date

1-19-2010

HON. REGINA DOYLE


Chair Regina Doyle

Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

Date

1-19-2010

SECRETARY MICHAEL CHRISMAN


Secretary Michael Chrisman

California Department of Natural Resources

Date

1/11/10

COMMISSIONER JOHN BOHN


Commissioner John Bohn
California Public Utilities Commission

1/11/10
Date

NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE


Rodney R. McInnis
Southwest Regional Administrator

1-11-10
Date

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME


John McCamman
Director

1-11-10
Date

CALIFORNIA STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY


Samuel Schuchat
Executive Officer

1/11/10
Date

MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY


Curtis Weeks
General Manager

1/11/10
Date

CALIFORNIA AMERICAN WATER


Robert MacLean
President

1/11/10
Date

BARBARA BOXER
CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENT
AND PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS

United States Senate

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 112
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0505
(202) 224-3553
<http://boxer.senate.gov/contact>

October 30, 2008

Sam Schuchat
Executive Officer
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, California 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

I am writing to support the cooperative efforts of the California State Coastal Conservancy, National Marine Fisheries Service, Planning and Conservation League Foundation, and California American Water to implement the Carmel River Reroute and Dam Removal Project.

Removal of the San Clemente Dam would provide numerous benefits to the public and environment. The project would eliminate the public safety risk posed by the potential collapse of the dam. It would also reduce erosion and associated damages to private properties and infrastructure along the Carmel River. Removal of the dam would restore vital habitat for threatened steelhead trout, California red-legged frogs, and other species. Furthermore, it would establish a contiguous connection between Garland Regional Park and San Clemente Open Space, establishing over 5400 acres of uninterrupted parkland for recreational use.

This project is a remarkable example of how public and private entities can work together to address challenges in water management and environmental protection. I fully support your efforts to secure funding for this project and complete implementation in a timely fashion.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

RECEIVED
NOV 03 2008
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

1700 MONTGOMERY STREET
SUITE 240
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111
(415) 403-0100

312 NORTH SPRING STREET
SUITE 1748
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
(213) 894-5000

501 'I' STREET
SUITE 7-600
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 448-2787

2500 TULARE STREET
SUITE 5290
FRESNO, CA 93721
(559) 497-5109

600 'B' STREET
SUITE 2240
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101
(619) 239-3884

201 NORTH 'E' STREET
SUITE 210
SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401
(909) 888-8525

SAM FARR
17TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND
DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
HOMELAND SECURITY
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL ORGANIC CAUCUS
CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL AND
TOURISM CAUCUS
CO-CHAIR, HOUSE OCEANS CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0517

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0517
(202) 225-2861
100 WEST ALISAL
SALINAS, CA 93901
(831) 424-2229
701 OCEAN STREET
ROOM 318
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 429-1976
www.farr.house.gov

October 27, 2008

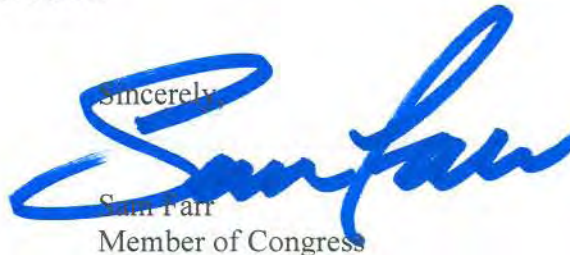
Sam Schuchat
Executive Director
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Sam,

I am writing to express my support of the California State Coastal Conservancy's efforts to obtain funding for the removal of the San Clemente Dam on the Carmel River in Monterey County, California.

The Carmel River provides essential habitat for federally-threatened steelhead and California red-legged frog, which will both benefit by the removal of the dam. The Carmel River Reroute and Dam Removal Project (CRRDR) represents an extraordinary opportunity for public and private interests to work together to remove an unsafe dam and initiate a watershed restoration process that will bring this river back to life.

I am confident the Coastal Conservancy, working in conjunction with California American Water and the other project partners, can carry out this project successfully and therefore, wish to support your efforts to obtain funding for this important project. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sam Farr
Member of Congress

SF/aa

RECEIVED
OCT 29 2008
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 6: Project Letters

COMMITTEES
CHAIR, LABOR & EMPLOYMENT
BUDGET
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO.5 ON
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TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY & TOXIC
MATERIALS
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WEBSITE
www.assembly.ca.gov/monning

Assembly California Legislature



WILLIAM W. MONNING
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0027
(916) 319-2027
FAX (916) 319-2127

DISTRICT OFFICES
701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 318-B
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 425-1503
FAX (831) 425-2570

99 PACIFIC STREET, SUITE 555-D
MONTEREY, CA 93940
(831) 649-2832
(831) 649-2935

SANTA CLARA COUNTY DIRECT LINE
(408) 782-0647

September 11, 2009

Robert G. MacLean, President
California American Water Company
1033 B Avenue, Suite 200
Coronado, CA 92118

Michael Chrisman, Secretary
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. MacLean and Secretary Chrisman:

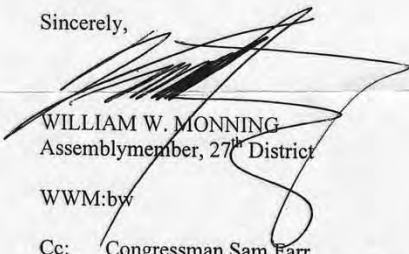
This letter is to express my support for the San Clemente Dam Removal and Reroute Project (Project) located on the Carmel River. The Project is being undertaken jointly by the California American Water Company (Cal Am), state departments within the California Natural Resources Agency, and various federal agencies.

Since the issue of safety about the San Clemente Dam was raised by the California Department of Water Resources' Division of Safety of Dams, discussions have focused on whether to buttress the dam or remove the dam altogether. I am pleased and encouraged to see that all interested parties are working together to implement the San Clemente Dam Removal and Reroute Project.

I understand Cal Am, along with the participating state and federal agencies are committed to devoting their time and available resources to develop an implementation strategy for the Project that meets the needs of all interested parties. Once implemented, this Project will improve the environmental ecosystem of the Carmel River.

Again, I would like to express my support the San Clemente Dam Removal and Reroute Project and hope that all those involved in the discussions continue to work together to ensure that the Project comes to fruition.

Sincerely,


WILLIAM W. MONNING
Assemblymember, 27th District

WWM:bw

Cc: Congressman Sam Farr
Monterey County Supervisor Dave Potter
Public Utilities Commissioner John Bohn
Dave Guiterriez, Division of Safety of Dams, Department of Water Resources
Rodney McInnis, Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service
Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, California State Coastal Conservancy
Curtis Weeks, General Manager, Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Darby Fuerst, General Manager, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Region
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

OCT 24 2007

In response refer to:
SWR/F/SWR3:JEA

Sam Schuchat
Executive Director
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, California 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

I appreciate your letter dated October 19, 2007, regarding NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) involvement with the San Clemente Dam Removal Project. As you are aware, the Carmel River is of extreme importance to NMFS in that it is a keystone river for the recovery of the South-Central California Coast steelhead population.

The San Clemente Dam Removal Project is part of the recovery strategy for the Carmel River steelhead population and is a high priority for NMFS in that it will remove a long-standing barrier to over 25 miles of upstream rearing and spawning habitat for steelhead. Removing the dam will also re-establish the natural sediment regime improving instream habitat downstream of the dam.

NMFS appreciates the California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) joining with us to form a private-public partnership with California American Water to address their dam safety issues and initiate a watershed restoration process providing significant public benefits. Not only will there be greater public benefits achieved by removing the dam, the cost to the public for a project of this magnitude will be greatly reduced.

NMFS believes the removal project will only result in a win-win situation for the resources and the people of California. We look forward to continuing our work with the SCC on this project.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Joyce Ambrosius at (707) 575-6064 or joyce.ambrosius@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney R. McInnis".

Rodney R. McInnis
Regional Administrator

cc: R. Strach, NMFS, Sacramento
T. Chapman, SCC, Oakland
Copy to file: 151422SWR01SR956





State of California - The Resources Agency

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>
Central Region
1234 E. Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710
(559) 243-4005



October 29, 2008

Sam Schuchat
Executive Director
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Sam,

I am writing to express my support of the California State Coastal Conservancy's efforts to plan and obtain funding for the removal of the San Clemente Dam on the Carmel River in Monterey County, California.

The Carmel River provides essential habitat for federally-threatened steelhead and California red-legged frog, which will both benefit by the removal of the dam.

The Carmel River Reroute and Dam Removal Project (CRRDR) represents an extraordinary opportunity for public and private interests to work together to remove an unsafe dam and initiate a watershed restoration process that will help bring this river back to life. The project's benefits also contribute a tremendous amount to the health and welfare of the local community by:

- (1) Promoting the recovery of the South-Central California Coast steelhead population by removing a barrier to approximately 25 miles of upstream spawning and rearing habitat;
- (2) Re-establishing a natural sediment regime, and thereby reducing the beach and river channel erosion that has occurred;
- (3) Mitigating the dam stability concerns by removing the dam completely and rerouting the Carmel River; and
- (4) Providing new recreational opportunities for the public through the transfer of approximately 900 acres of watershed lands to public ownership.

I am confident the Coastal Conservancy, working in conjunction with California American Water and the other project partners, can carry out this project successfully and therefore, wish to add our support for your efforts to plan and obtain funding for this important project.

Sincerely,

W. E. Loudermilk
Regional Manager



Exhibit 6: Project Letters
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Coast Region



Linda S. Adams.
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906
(805) 549-3147 • Fax (805) 543-0397
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast>

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

January 31, 2008

Mr. Sam Schuchat
Executive Director
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

SUBJECT: WATER BOARD SUPPORT FOR CARMEL RIVER REROUTE AND SAN CLEMENTE DAM REMOVAL AS PREFERRED DAM SAFETY PROJECT ALTERNATIVE

Dear Sam:

As Executive Officer of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board), I am writing to support the State Coastal Conservancy's effort to make the Carmel River Reroute and San Clemente Dam Removal (CRRDR) project the preferred dam safety project for the San Clemente Dam.

The CRRDR project is described in the San Clemente Dam Seismic Safety Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as a project alternative to dam safety modifications. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is the Lead Agency for the EIR/EIS. This project alternative would mitigate dam stability concerns by removing the dam and rerouting the Carmel River. Because of the additional benefits to the public that would result from the CRRDR project, several organizations are working with the California American Water Company (Cal-Am) to further consider this alternative and to urge DWR to select it as the preferred dam safety project. The State Coastal Conservancy has been appointed as the lead state agency in examining this alternative and is directing supplemental technical studies to support this effort. The January 2, 2008 Draft Basis of Design document for the CRRDR project conceptual design summarizes all of the design elements and assumptions used to develop the project.

The Central Coast Water Board staff have reviewed the Draft Basis of Design Report (Report) for the CRRDR project. As the Report states, "The goal of the CRRDR project is to eliminate the dam safety hazard, provide comprehensive restoration of the natural character and function of the valley bottom, and restore fish passage. This includes a continuum of habitat elements, including aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats." Water Board staff recognize the risks from failure to meet these goals include flooding, public safety impacts, and property damage; and that potential environmental impacts include

sediment release into the downstream river, harm to aquatic habitat, and impact on plant and animal species. We acknowledge that Report authors have not formally identified risk acceptability for various project elements, but we generally concur with their identification and characterization of two risk categories that must be addressed: "1) flooding, for which the acceptable risk threshold is very low; and 2) downstream sediment delivery, for which the threshold is moderate in the short term, with hazard vulnerability expecting to diminish in the long term."

The Report accurately identifies specific water quality risks associated with key project activities, which include:

1. Removal of the dam and relocation of approximately 380,000 cubic yards (235 acre-feet [ac-ft]) of accumulated sediment behind the dam on the San Clemente Creek arm of the San Clemente Reservoir.
2. Permanent bypass of a portion of the Carmel River by cutting a 450-foot-long channel between the Carmel River and San Clemente Creek, approximately 2500 feet upstream of the dam.
3. Use of the bypassed portion of the Carmel River as a sediment disposal site for the accumulated sediment.
4. Construction of a diversion dike at the upstream end of the bypassed reservoir arm using rock spoils from channel construction (145 ac-ft or 235,000 cubic-yards).
5. During the active construction seasons, diversion of Carmel River and San Clemente Creek around the reservoir and dam site, and reservoir dewatering.
6. Over one season, removal of accumulated sediment in San Clemente Creek from behind the dam, by excavation with heavy earthmoving equipment, to match pre-dam contours.
7. Transport of San Clemente Creek sediment to a disposal area in the bypassed portion of the reservoir.
8. Dam and fish ladder demolition, and placement of demolished concrete debris, segregated from reinforcing steel, in the abandoned Carmel River arm of the reservoir, or, use as part of construction material for diversion dike and stone columns for slope stabilization/liquefaction mitigation.
9. Stabilization of sediments at the downstream end of the bypassed reservoir arm.
10. Reconstruction of the San Clemente Creek channel through its historic inundation zone from the exit of the diversion channel to the dam site.

Our primary water quality concerns surround dewatering and related construction site management issues during the extended time frame over which construction activities are proposed. As the Report indicates, the dewatering system will depend on a number of factors including rate of construction, use of shoring, and type of dewatering system. We will require early consultation and final approval of the dewatering system design, which we anticipate would include a filtration system or desilting basin at the discharge point, or down stream of the dam, to maintain turbidity at levels protective of beneficial uses in the downstream river.

Sam Schuchat

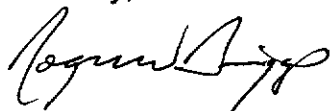
- 3 -

January 30, 2008

We agree with the Report's recommendation that because of the extended time that will be required to complete and approve a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), the owner/engineer should work with the Water Board to prepare a draft SWPPP that the contractor can finalize and submit.

We are confident that our concerns can be adequately addressed in subsequent design phases of the CRRDR project and wish to support your efforts to have the Department of Water Resources select it as the preferred project in their filing of the Notice of Completion for the EIR/EIS. The Water Board must issue a CWA Section 401 Certification for any activity receiving authorization under Section 404 (U.S. Army Corps permit), and our staff are prepared to assist project proponents in understanding and meeting all Water Board regulatory requirements for the project per Federal Clean Water Act and the State's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call **Dominic Roques (805) 542-4780 or send email to droques@waterboards.ca.gov**.

Sincerely,



Roger W. Briggs
Executive Officer

cc: *(by electronic mail)*

Lester Snow
Director, California Department of Water Resources

Kent Turner
President, American Water - Western Region

Michael Chrisman
Secretary, California Resources Agency

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California Environmental Protection Agency



Steven L. Evans
Conservation Director
Friends of the River
915 20th Street, Sacramento CA 95814
Phone: (916) 442-3155, Ext. 221
Email: sevans@friendsoftheriver.org

April 21, 2008

The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: **Support for the Carmel River San Clemente Dam Re-route Option**

Dear Chairman Bosco:

Friends of the River has been dedicated to preserving and restoring California's rivers, streams, and their watersheds for 35 years. We believe the Carmel River is an extraordinary waterway and the San Clemente Dam Re-Route option would greatly improve the state of this river for wildlife and Monterey county residents alike. Please support the San Clemente Dam Re-Route option as proposed in the recently released Environmental Impact Report for San Clemente Dam Seismic Retrofit Project.

This is a rare opportunity for California to restore the health of a local ecosystem and public resource. Fish and wildlife will be positively influenced for many decades to come as will the economic benefit that a healthy fishery represents to local businesses and communities. Please join us in giving your full and unqualified support to this landmark project to restore the free flow of the Carmel River.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Evans
Conservation Director

475 Washington Street, Suite A
Monterey, CA 93940
PH 831.646.8839
FX 831.646.8843

Report Polluters: 831.646.8840



December 19, 2008

Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2512

Re: Support - San Clemente Dam removal

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

Very occasionally there are opportunities for synergy: true win, win, win situations. Removal of the San Clemente Dam is one of these rare opportunities. We can earthquake buttress a useless and environmentally destructive sediment trap, or we can restore a river to health and productivity. Sam, beyond the obvious satisfaction of seeing a useless dam come down, this project makes perfect sense.

The project will restore steelhead habitat. The Carmel River once supported a thriving run of steelhead. Producing not only fish, the river produced anglers and tourism. Few people fish the Carmel today - that can change. What is most significant is that not all rivers are created equal - the geology and gradient of the Carmel make it an especially worthy candidate for restoration.

The Carmel drains into an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). An ASBS is critically linked to the health and temperature of the water flowing into it. It is the combined health of the ASBS and the watershed that create the unique biological community the ASBS is centered around. Removal of San Clemente Dam and restoration of 25 miles of the Carmel River will be a benefit to ocean health.

PCL and others have consistently and repeatedly reached out to stakeholders and area residents. Many of the direct stakeholder groups - including Monterey Coastkeeper - have actively participated in planning meetings. There is no obvious opposition to this project. It is important to note that while repeated efforts have been made to reach out to area residents, participation in 'town hall' meetings has been slim. No doubt, people will claim they "didn't know," but consistent and repeated outreach efforts have been made.

Monterey Coastkeeper and The Otter Project support the removal of San Clemente Dam - as do many other organizations and area residents. What's lacking is money. We hope the California Coastal Conservancy will support the project with both encouragement and substantive financial support.

Sincerely,



Steve Shimek
Monterey Coastkeeper



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DEC 22 2008

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

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David Hirsch

Vice Chairman
Ralph B. Perry III

Secretary-Treasurer
Daniel S. Frost



Trustees
Coke Hallowell
Gerald H. Meral
Armando Rodriguez

April 22, 2008

Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am pleased to submit this letter on behalf of the Planning and Conservation League Foundation in support of the Coastal Conservancy's efforts to remove the San Clemente Dam on the Carmel River in Monterey County.

The San Clemente Dam no longer serves a water supply function and poses a seismic risk to the residents of Carmel Valley. In 2007, the Planning and Conservation League Foundation and the Carmel River Watershed Conservancy jointly published the *Supplemental Carmel River Watershed Action Plan*, funded in part by the State Water Resources Control Board and the State Coastal Conservancy. The report concluded that the benefits of dam removal would provide a permanent resolution of the dam's safety issue, as well as significantly contribute to improved management of watershed resources including gaining 25 miles of unimpaired access to spawning habitat for steelhead trout, reestablishing sediment to the undernourished lower river and beach, and improving wildlife habitat for species like the red-legged frog.

Since then the Conservancy staff has conducted studies to determine the technical and environmental feasibility of dam removal. Recently the proposed dam removal project was determined to be feasible by the Department of Water Resources, and California American Water and National Marine Fisheries Service signed an MOU with the Conservancy outlining necessary steps toward implementation of dam removal.

PCLF urges the Board of the State Coastal Conservancy to approve staff recommendations for further action to implement the proposed dam removal project as the best long term solution for both the ratepayers of the Monterey Peninsula and the ecology of the Carmel River.

Sincerely,

Traci Sheehan Van Thull
Executive Director



CARMEL RIVER STEELHEAD ASSOCIATION

**P. O. Box 1183
Monterey, CA 93940**

February 6, 2008

Sam Suchat
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Carmel River Steelhead Association letter of support for the Carmel River
San Clemente Dam re-route project.

Dear Mr. Suchat:

Our organization, the Carmel River Steelhead Association, has worked for over 35 years to restore the Carmel River. We have rescued many hundreds of thousands of wild steelhead. Our volunteers have spent thousands of man hours to restore habitat in the Carmel River Watershed. We have secured hundreds of thousands of grant dollars to make stream and fish passage improvements.

It is with the experience borne of decades of unselfish work on this environmental recovery that we make a very strong request for your assistance. Please support the San Clemente Dam Re-Route option as proposed in the recently released Environmental Impact Report for San Clemente Dam Seismic Retrofit.

This is a rare opportunity for California to restore the health of a local ecosystem and public environmental resource. Wildlife will be positively influenced for many decades to come as will the economic benefit that a healthy fishery represents to local businesses and communities. Please join us in giving your full and unqualified support to this landmark project to restore the free flow of the Carmel River.

Sincerely, on behalf of the Board of Directors,

Roy Thomas, Secretary

Roy Thomas
President, Carmel River Steelhead Association



Carmel River Watershed Conservancy

PO Box 223833

Carmel, CA 93922-3833

Phone: 831-375-5376 Fax: 831-655-4830

E-mail: crwcsteelhead@pacbell.net

WebPage <http://www.carmelriverwatershed.org>

Officers: Clive Sanders, President

Paul Bruno, Vice-President

Patricia Bernardi, Treasurer

Lorin Letendre, Secretary, CRLC

Board: Mary Jane Hammerland, HELM
Members: Jack Hammerland, Alternate

Monica Hunter, PCL

Robert Zampatti

February 5, 2008

Mr. Sam Schuchat
Executive Director
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for San Clemente Dam Removal and Reroute Project

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

The Carmel River Watershed Conservancy (CRWC) supports the State Coastal Conservancy's proposed project to remove the San Clemente Dam on the Carmel River in Monterey County. CRWC has in recent years conducted hydrological and biological studies of the watershed, and organized a community effort to support implementation of the *Carmel River Watershed Action Plan* (2005) identifying priority problems and goals for restoration of the river and watershed resources. In this effort, CRWC and the Planning and Conservation League Foundation (PCLF) jointly published the *Supplemental Carmel River Watershed Action Plan* (March 2007), funded in part by the State Coastal Conservancy, to further assess watershed scale problems related to the dam and impacts to wildlife habitat.

Through this effort we have gained an understanding that removal of the dam would result in many more benefits and environmental gains than the other solutions proposed in the San Clemente Dam Seismic Safety Project EIR/EIS. Our support for the dam removal project has grown over time in part due to our efforts to better understand the range of dam-related impacts and disruption to the ecological integrity of the river resulting from the presence of the dam. The key problems identified include fish passage, seasonal fish transport, impacts to riparian vegetation and stream stability, and loss of continuity of essential wildlife habitat impacting key species that include threatened steelhead trout.

We also wish to underscore the fact that the dam removal and river reroute project was initially proposed through a process that considered local knowledge of the river combined with technical assessments of viable options to stabilize the sediment above the dam structure. It is our belief that after many years of consideration, the dam removal and river reroute project presents the best solution to eliminate the seismic threat posed by the dam, and also provides broader environmental gains for the community and for the state as a whole.

Sincerely,

Clive Sanders
President, Carmel River Watershed Conservancy

Exhibit 6: Project Letters

Cc: Governor Schwarzenegger, Senator Abel Maldonado, Assmblyman John
Laird, Congressman Sam Farr, Monica Hunter and Resource Agency Secretary
Mike Chrisman



May 12, 2011

VIA EMAIL & U.S. MAIL

Kelly McCarthy Sutherland, Esq.
L&G, LLP
318 Cayuga Street
P.O. Box 2119
Salinas, CA 93901

Re: San Clemente Dam Removal Project

Dear Ms. Sutherland:

Your letter to Coastal Conservancy Chairman Doug Bosco dated May 2, 2011 requests that all access for the San Clemente Dam Removal Project ("Project") along the Carmel River in Monterey County be through the access road on the eastern end of the Project rather than through the Sleepy Hollow community. Your letter also asserts that the dam owner, CalAm, may have rights not fully adequate to use roads in Sleepy Hollow to undertake the Project, despite the access easement that CalAm holds over those roads. The purpose of this letter is to address your concerns over the impacts of construction traffic on the Sleepy Hollow community. To the extent necessary, CalAm or I will address the adequacy of the easement in a separate letter later.

As you are aware, the California Department of Water Resources, Division of the Safety of Dams has determined that San Clemente Dam is seismically unsafe and has ordered CalAm to address the seismic safety hazard. CalAm initially intended to buttress the dam in place because buttressing is the most cost effective option. However, with the assistance of public funds, CalAm has agreed to remove the dam, thereby restoring the ecological integrity of the Carmel River up and down-stream of the dam and protecting 928 acres of the watershed land that surrounds Sleepy Hollow. At its public hearing scheduled for May 19, 2011, the Conservancy will consider approving a grant to help fund implementation of the Project, subject to future authorizations and subject to agreements that have not as yet been negotiated. A copy of the agenda and the staff recommendation, without exhibits, are enclosed. (The exhibits to the staff recommendation will be available on the Conservancy's website early next week at scc.ca.gov.) Construction work is currently anticipated to begin in either 2012 or, more likely, 2013.

Your letter asserts that the project will result in heavy traffic through the Sleepy Hollow community, in particular: "fifteen to thirty trips per day of heavy equipment and five to ten worker trips per day for a period of up to eight months as well as an unspecified number of trips for 'material delivery'." However, these estimates are associated with the rejected buttressing option, not with the actual Project (San Clemente Dam Seismic Safety Project Final

1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, California 94612-2512
510-286-1015 Fax: 510-286-0470



Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement 2008 ("EIR/EIS") p. 4.9-24 – 4.9-25). Buttressing the dam would entail substantial construction work below the dam. As indicated in the EIR/EIS, if CalAm were to buttress the dam, it is anticipated that San Clemente Drive would be used for mobilization of all construction equipment and for construction worker access during the first eight months of construction. The actual Project, on the other hand, entails much more work above the dam instead, meaning fewer trips through Sleepy Hollow. Access to the area above the dam is via Cachagua Road. The EIR/EIS states the following with respect to traffic in connection with the Project (which is identified as "Alternative 3" in the EIR/EIS):

For Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 the Cachagua Access Route would be the primary route providing access above the Dam. However, San Clemente Drive would be needed to provide access below the Dam which is not accessible from the Cachagua route. San Clemente Drive would be used for initial mobilization of equipment for several weeks at the beginning of each construction year for three years, and occasional truck and workers during the project, and demobilization and equipment at the end of each construction year for a period of several weeks. The amount of trips during that several week period is expected to be 15 to 30 trips with heavy equipment. It is anticipated that less than 25 percent of the total construction traffic would use San Clemente Drive for access below the Dam. The number of trips added to San Clemente Drive is not projected to exceed 12 trips per day. (EIR/EIS, p 4.9-35)

Thus, the estimated use of the route through Sleepy Hollow for the Project is a total of 15 to 30 trips of heavy equipment over a several week period at the beginning and at the end of each construction year. This is far less than the 15 to 30 trips per day for an eight-month period associated with buttressing the dam.

In addition, the engineers who are refining the construction plan for permitting purposes have indicated that actual construction traffic through Sleepy Hollow will be even lower than estimated in the EIR/EIS.

Thus, the construction traffic through Sleepy Hollow will be much less than you describe in your letter. Further, if the Conservancy does not provide funding to help CalAm pay for the Project, CalAm will buttress the dam in order to alleviate the seismic safety hazard. This would necessarily require significantly higher levels of traffic through Sleepy Hollow.

The EIR/EIS identifies traffic mitigation measures that will be incorporated into the Project to reduce the adverse effects of traffic on the Sleepy Hollow community. These include a trip reduction plan for construction workers involving carpooling, a traffic coordination and communication plan to time project travel to avoid peak traffic periods and to provide residents with a point of contact for traffic information, limiting speed and hours of operation of construction-related traffic, use of high-quality mufflers, and vacuum sweeping of San Clemente

Kelly McCarthy Sutherland, Esq.

May 12, 2011

Page 3

Drive. (EIR/EIS, p. 4.9-31, and San Clemente Dam Seismic Safety Project Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, March 2011, p. 1-46)

We would be happy to meet with you and the Sleepy Hollow Homeowners Association to discuss the traffic estimates and the mitigation measures that will reduce the Project's impact on the community, though we believe that these discussions would be most helpful after a refined construction plan has been prepared. We currently anticipate completion in late June 2011.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions or comments. I can be reached at (510) 286-1196 or aroach@scc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Amy Roach
Senior Staff Counsel

Attachments

cc: Trish Chapman, SCC (w/o attachments)
John Donnelly, WCB (w/o attachments)